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PROGRAM NBC Nightly News STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE October 27, 1986 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT CIA Recruitment

STAT ☐ TOM BROKAW: In this country, to help fight terrorists
STAT ☐ around the world, the CIA now has decided to call for the cops.
As NBC's Art Kent reports tonight, it is looking to hire police
officers off the streets of America's big cities.

POLICE OFFICER: The color of the day today is yellow.

ART KENT: Street cops in New York City getting ready to
make a drug bust, and now they're the target of a major recruit-
ing effort by the Central Intelligence Agency.

STAT ☐ At a July seminar on terrorism at the CIA's Langley,
Virginia headquarters, CIA Director William Casey asked civilian
police officials to help in the CIA's effort to recruit cops with
"street smarts." Intelligence officials say the fight against
international terrorism and the war on drugs have forced a change
in the traditional role of clandestine intelligence gathering and
a change in the kinds of people the CIA wants.

STAT ☐ RAY S. CLINE: You may well want to hire someone who is
familiar with the cocaine climate rather than, say, the techno-
logy transfer climate.

KENT: The CIA has stepped up its recruiting recently,
taking out ads in newspapers and visiting college campuses. But
its efforts to recruit working cops away from their departments
is not meeting with universal acceptance. In Los Angeles, the
police department says it needs all its people at home. New
York's mayor says his city is happy to contribute.

MAYOR ED KOCH: But I don't think that the numbers that

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-2-

they're talking about have any impact at all upon our police department.

KENT: Police officers who have taken the CIA's employment test say the agency prefers single people, warns them they will have to pass drug and lie detector tests and serve overseas.

A CIA spokesman said these are not temporary jobs, but permanent staff positions. And unlike the well-known Marine Corps' recruiting pitch, the CIA wants a lot of good men and women.

Art Kent, NBC News, Washington.